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BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT
DATED: 01.11.2018
CORAM:
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE G.K.ILANTHIRAIYAN

CRL.O.P. (MD) No.19568 of 2018
and
Crl.M.P. (MD) No.8886 and 8887 of 2018

1.Velusamy
2.Thalapathy
3.Moorthi
4.Kulanthaivelu
5.Jeyaraman
6.Tamilarasi
7.Chinnammal

: Petitioners/ A1 to A7

Vs.

1.The State represented by
The Inspector of Police (L&O),
B3, Theppakulam Police Station,
Madurai City,
Madurai.

(Cr.No.220 of 2014)

: Respondent/ Complainant

2.Muneeshwaran

: Respondent / De facto
Complainant

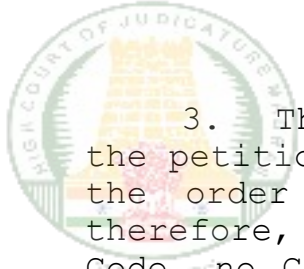
PRAYER: Criminal Original Petition - filed under Section 482 of Cr.P.C., to call for the records of the final report in connection with S.T.C.No.361 of 2014, dated 05.05.2014 on the file of the learned Judicial Magistrate No.I, Madurai District and quash the same in so far as the petitioners concerned.

For Petitioners : Mr.M.Lingadurai
For Respondents : Mr.K.Suyambulinga Bharathi
Government Advocate (Crl. Side)

ORDER

The Criminal Original Petition is filed to quash the final report in S.T.C.No.361 of 2014, dated 05.05.2014 on the file of the learned Judicial Magistrate No.I, Madurai District as against the petitioners, for the offences punishable under Sections 341, 143 and 188 IPC and Section 4 AA of the TNOPPD Act.

2. The case of the prosecution is that the de-facto complainant one Muneeshwaran, who is working as the Village Administrative Officer, Ayyaravathanallur Village, Madurai North Circle, Madurai, alleged that the petitioners violated the election rules. Hence, a case has been registered against the petitioners.



3. The learned counsel for the petitioners would submit that the petitioners are said to have violated the election rules against the order of the Commissioner of Police, Madurai District and therefore, by virtue of Section 195(1) of the Criminal Procedure Code, no Court can take cognizance of the offence punishable under Sections 172 to 188 of IPC, except on the complaint given by the public servant concerned. In the case on hand, the second respondent, who is the Village Administrative Officer, Ayyaravathanallur Vilage, Madurai North Circle, Madurai at the time of alleged occurrence had lodged a written complaint. Therefore, he has no locus or competence to lodge a complaint for the offence under Section 188 of IPC. Further, he would submit that the case of the prosecution is that the petitioners violated the election rules against the order promulgated by the Commissioner of Police, Madurai District. But, the Commissioner of Police, Madurai District, did not lodge any complaint and as such, the complaint as in the entire proceedings as against the petitioners is liable to be quashed.

4. The learned Government Advocate (criminal side) appearing for the respondent would submit that the petitioners, even after the knowledge of promulgation order, violated the election rules. Therefore, they committed the offences under Sections 341, 143 and 188 IPC and Section 4 AA of the TNOPPD Act. Therefore, they sought for dismissal of the quash petition.

5. Heard the respective counsels.

6. This Court has carefully considered the rival submissions made on either side.

7. Admittedly, the second respondent is the Village Administrative Officer, Ayyaravathanallur Vilage, Madurai North Circle, Madurai, Madurai District, whereas, the Promulgation Order was passed by the Commissioner of Police, Madurai District. He is not the complainant.

8. The only question for consideration is that whether the registration of case under Sections 143, 188 IPC, on the complaint lodged by the respondent is permissible under law or not. In this regard it is relevant to extract Section 195(1)(a) of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 :-

"195. Prosecution for contempt of lawful authority of public servants, for offences against public justice and for offences relating to documents given in evidence. (1) No Court shall take cognizance-

(a) (i) of any offence punishable under sections 172 to 188 (both inclusive) of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860), or

(ii) of any abetment of, attempt to commit, such offence, or

<https://hcservices.ecourts.gov.in/hcservices/>



(iii) of any criminal conspiracy to commit, such offence, except on the complaint in writing of the public servant concerned or of some other public servant to whom he is administratively subordinate;..."

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9. In view of the above, it is very clear that for taking cognizance of the offences under Section 188 of IPC, the public servant should lodge a complaint in writing and other than that no Court has power to take cognizance.

10. The learned counsel for the petitioners relied upon the judgement in Mahaboob Basha Vs. Sambanda Reddiar and others reported in 1994(1) Crimes, Page 477. In the above judgment cited by the learned counsel for the petitioners in a batch of quash petitions, this Court has held in Paragraph-25, as follows:-

...25. In view of the discussions, the following guidelines are issued insofar as an offence under Section 188 of IPC, is concerned;

a) A Police Officer cannot register an FIR for any of the offences falling under Section 172 to 188 of IPC.

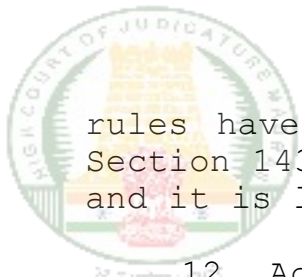
b) A Police Officer by virtue of the powers conferred under Section 41 of Cr.P.C., will have the authority to take action under Section 41 of Cr.P.C., when a cognizable offence under Section 188 IPC is committed in his presence or where such action is required, to prevent such person from committing an offence under Section 188 of IPC.

c) The role of the Police Officer will be confined only to the preventive action as stipulated under Section 41 of Cr.P.C., and immediately thereafter, he has to inform about the same to the public servant concerned/authorised, to enable such public servant to give a complaint in writing before the jurisdictional Magistrate, who shall take cognizance of such complaint on being prima facie satisfied with the requirements of Section 188 of IPC.

d) In order to attract the provisions of Section 188 of IPC, the written complaint of the public servant concerned should reflect the following ingredients namely;

i) that there must be an order promulgated by the public servant;

ii) that such public servant is lawfully empowered to promulgate it;



rules have been violated and does not satisfy the requirements of Section 143 of IPC. Therefore, the final report cannot be sustained and it is liable to be quashed.

12. Accordingly, S.T.C.No.361 of 2014, dated 05.05.2014 on the file of the learned Judicial Magistrate No.I, Madurai District is quashed and the Criminal Original Petition is allowed. Consequently, connected Miscellaneous Petitions are closed.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar(AD-I)

/True Copy/

Sub Assistant Registrar(CS-III)

To

1.The Judicial Magistrate No.I,
Madurai District.

2.The Inspector of Police,
B3, Theppakulam Police Station,
Madurai City, Madurai.

3.The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Madurai.

+1CC to Mr.M.Lingadurai, Advocate, SR.No. 94022

CRL.O.P(MD)No.19568 of 2018
01.11.2018

SM

ES/PM/SAR 3/12.12.2018/5P/5C